



# THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON AUTISM

*"Supporting individuals with autism and their families:  
forging new directions for real change"*

April 6, 2007

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Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to announce that the Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism is embarking on an important community outreach and public information campaign.

The initial phase of this endeavor is targeting key leaders and organizations in the community that impact the lives of individuals with autism spectrum disorders. The goals of these initial meetings include the following:

- Informing individuals, organizations, and community leaders about the Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism
- Obtaining input and feedback on the preliminary recommendations recently submitted by the three Task Force Groups.
- Engaging individuals and community-based organizations in the Commission's future work.

The staff of the Autism Commission is presently working on providing support to the following outreach meetings:

- April 13<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. hosted by The Help Group (13130 Burbank Blvd.; Sherman Oaks, 91401)
- April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the East Bay Area; hosted by Sen. Don Perata and Friends of Children with Special Needs (Alameda County Public Health Offices located in the Transpacific Centre; 1000 Broadway, Suite 500, Oakland; 94612)
- May 17<sup>th</sup> Sonoma-Bay Area provider conference being hosted by the North Bay Regional Center (9a.m.to 1p.m. in Petaluma Community Center; 320 N. McDowell Blvd.; Petaluma)

Other events include:

- Commissioner Barbara Firestone and The Help Group are hosting an Autism Awareness Event honoring Sen. John Burton (Autism Leadership Award); The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf (Philanthropic Excellence Award); Gelson's Market (Autism Partner Award).
- Commissioner Areva Martin, Task Force Member Donna Ross-Jones, (Special Needs Network) are hosting a Legislative Breakfast & Scientific Update on April 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at Dorsey High School; 3537 Farmdale Ave. Los Angeles, 90016.

We are delighted that The Autism Commission's web site will be soon available at <http://senweb03.senate.ca.gov/autism/>. Please check it out and let us know what you think.

We would welcome your input and recommendations on additional ideas and/or events for building public awareness about the work of the Commission. Your dedication, hard work and commitment are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Senator Darrell Steinberg, (D-6<sup>th</sup> District) Chair

Barbara Firestone, Ph.D; (President & CEO, The Help Group) Vice-Chair